

Message Text

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71

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SWF-02 TAR-02

NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03

L-03 DRC-01 /181 W

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P 102135Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6424

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DEPT PASS USDA/FAS AND STR FOR AMB EBERLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AR

SUBJ: ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS TO US

REF: A. STATE 95399; B. BA 3275

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINES CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL WAYS TO INCREASE MEAT EXPORTS TO US. INDICATIONS ARE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. I REQUEST THAT THEIR PROPOSALS RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND THT USG TAKE CARE TO MAKE IT PLAIN THAT WE ARE TREATING THIS MATTER AS SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEM IN WHICH WE ALSO HOPE FOR SOLUTIONS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO ARGENTINES. END SUMMARY.

2. TOGETHER WITH AGATT AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF, I MET ON MAY 8 IN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING (PARA 6 REF B), WITH PRESIENT OF SOCIEDAD RURAL, PEREDA, DRS. CAFFEY AND JOHN-SON OF USDA/APHIS. IN THIS MEETING DR. PREDA REPEATED HIS DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL TO SEEK PERMISSION TO MOVE FRESH CHILLED OR FROZEN ARGENTINE BONELESS BEEF IN SEALED REFRIGERATED

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CONTAINERS TO US PORTS IN BOND FOR SHIP STORE USE, AS DESCRIBED

PARA 3 REF B. QUESTIONS POSED BY DRS. CAFFEY AND JOHNSON WERE HELPFUL IN SECURING A CLEARER PICTURE OF ARGENTINE PROPOSAL AND DEGREE TO WHICH DR. PEREDA AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR IDEA.

3. DRS. CAFFEY AND JOHNSON EXPRESSED THEIR DOUBTS CONCERNING WHETHER OPERATIONS SUCH AS PROPOSED WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER EXISTING US LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND AGREED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER MORE FULLY WITH THE APPROPRIATE USDA OFFICIALS UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 15. OUR MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT WHEN APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE PROPOSAL, THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ARGENTINES. DURING MEETING DR. PEREDA GAVE US TO UNDERSTAND HE HAS BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT WITH AMB ORFILA IN WASHINGTON AND BELIEVES THAT AMB ORFILA WILL SEEK TO FOLLOW UP ON SUBJECT WITH DEPT AND/OR STR AND/OR USDA.

4. PRESIDENT OF LOCAL AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ARGENTINA HAS INFORMED US THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT OF CONFEDERACION GENERAL ECONOMICA, JULIO BRNER, A CONFIDANT AND FOLLOWER OF MIN GELBARD, LATTER STATED HE (AND BY IMPLICATION GOA) NOW CONSIDERS MATTERS OF US ACCEPTING MORE ARGENTINE MEAT AS FIRST ORDER BILATEAL PROBLEM. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDED THAT GOA WILL PURSUE IT AS PERSISTENTLY AS IT DID THE US SUBSIDIARIES' TRADE WITH CUBA ISSUE.

5. ON MAY 9 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED REF A. TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY US IN REF B, IT PROVIDES NEGATIVE RESPONSES. I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND UNPOLITIC TO TRANSMIT THESE NEGATIVE RESPONSES IMMEDIATELY TO THE ARGENTINE INQUIRERS. WHILE I UNDER STAND THE SITUATION MAY APPEAR SO CLEAR CUT TO USDA OFFICIALS THAT THEY MAY FEEL NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OR REVIEW OF THE ARGENTINE PROPOSASLS (ON SHIPMENTS OF FRESH BEEF FOR SHIP STORES SEALED CONTAINERS OR AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AN AFTOSA-FREE AREA WITHING ARGENTINA) ARE NECESSARY, A COMPLETELY NEGATIVE RESPONSE WITHIN LITERALLY A MATTER OF HOURS FOLLOWING ITS PRESENTATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT USG HAS NOT GIVEN IT PROPER CONSIDRATION.

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6. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD TEND TO OFFSET AND WEAKEN OTHER IMPORTANT USG POLICY INITIATIVES. THE MAIN THRUST OF SECRETARY KISSINGERS RESPONSE TO LATIN AMERICAN COMPLAINTS AT THE MEXICO MFM WAS THAT USG WAS WILLING TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY ALL BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS TOGETHER WITH THEIR CAUSES AND ORIGINS IN A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS. AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND HIS MISSION INITAIATED USG EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT

THE PLEDGE MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

7. I REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE OFFICERS IN STATE, STR AND USDA CONSULT IN A CAREFUL EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MAY BE RESPONSES AND SUGGESTIONS WHICH USG CAN MAKE AT THIS TIME WHICH WILL, AT A MINIMUM INDICATE THAT THE ARGENTINE PROPOSALS ARE RECEIVING THOROUGH CONSIDERATION. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY PRACTICAL IDEAS WHICH USG OFFICIALS MAY DEVELOP CONCERNING THE MOST PRODUCTIVE ACTIONS WHICH ARGENTINA MIGHT TAKE TO QUALIFY MORE OF ITS MEAT PRODUCTS FOR MARKETING WITHIN THE US. SUGGESTIONS OF THIS TYPE WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN THE POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT I AND MY COLLEAGUES MUST TELL THE ARGENTINES THAT THEY SHOULD ABANDON HOPES CONCERNING THE TWO PROPOSALS THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT MATTER RAISED PARA 3 REF A AND PARA 7 REF B, I EXPECT TO MAKE GOOD USE OF INFORMATION YOU HAVE PROVIDED CONCERNING INCREASED ARGENTINE SALES OF CANNED AND COOKED-FROZEN BEEF IN US MARKET DURING EARLY 1974. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR ESTIMATES COULD BE PROVIDED ME CONCERNING THE APPARENT INCREASES POSSIBLE IN ARGENTINE SALES OF THESE PRODUCTS WITHIN US IF ARGENTINE PRODUCTS WERE MORE COMPETITIVE IN PRICE (AS COMPARED AGAINST SIMILAR PRODUCTS FROM OTHER SOURCES AND AS COMPARED WITH OTHER DIFFERENT BUT COMPETING TYPES OF MEAT). PERHAPS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RELEVANT MARKET CONDITIONS AND PERTINENT COMPETITIVE STATUS OF ARGENTINE CANNED AND COOKED FROZEN BEEF AT PERIODS IN PAST WHEN THIS PRODUCT ENJOYED SUDDEN SPURTS IN SALES AND USE WOULD BE HELPFUL. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRODUCT OF ANY ANALYSIS OF THIS TOPIC WHICH US OFFICIALS MIGHT DO AND PRESENT TO ARGENTINES WOULD HELP TO CONVINCE THE LATTER THAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE INDEED GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THEIR COMPLAINTS AND PROPOSALS. THE WE CONSIDER THE MATTER A SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT ONE AND THAT WE WISH TO CONTINUE A USEFUL DIALOGUE. THIS GOES TO THE ESSENCE OF MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA AND SEEKING TO IMPROVE THEM.

9. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE USG NOT BE HASTY IN DISMISSING THESE ARGENTINE PROPOSALS AND OTHERS THAT MAY BE MADE EVEN IF IT IS CLEAR THAT IMPORTANT US SANITARY REGULATIONS WILL NOT PERMIT THEIR ACCEPTANCE. I HOPE THAT AMB ORFILA, WHEN HE TURNS TO THIS SUBJECT, WILL BE GIVEN A SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE AND THAT OUR EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD WILL SEEK TO ASSIST US IN COMING UP WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE WE ARE ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM SERIOUSLY AND PERHAPS SERVE TO DEFLECT ARGENTINE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE

NOT FEASIBLE BY DIVERTING EFFORTS TO MORE
PRODUCTIVE CHANNELS.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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